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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4175

INFO RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 000276

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/2018

TAGS: PREL NG

SUBJECT: NIGER LIKELY TO RECOGNIZE KOSOVO

REF: A. SECSTATE 22377

¶B. NIAMEY 223

¶C. NIAMEY 183

Classified By: Econoff Richard Roberts for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Econoff delivered Ref A demarche on March 7 to Ministry of Foreign Affairs desk officer for the Americas, Asia, and Oceana, Issa Housseyni. Housseyni stated that he believed Niger would most likely recognize Kosovo's independence. He stated that he based this belief on a previous conversation between the Foreign Minister and Ambassador Allen.

¶2. (C) Housseyni's statements, however, are the strongest yet on the likelihood of Niger's recognition of Kosovo. On February 11, the Foreign Minister reported no strong views on Kosovo to Ambassador Allen, and stated only that GON actions would likely mirror those of the majority of UN member states (Ref B). On February 21, the Secretary General of the MFA told the Ambassador the views of the Organization of Islamic States would carry the most weight in the GON's decision making process (Ref C).

ALLEN